

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fullerton.

In view of the rejections, claim 2 has been cancelled, and the subject matter of cancelled claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 together with other limitations. Also, claims 3-5 and 10 have been amended, and new claims 15 and 16 have been filed.

In Fullerton, an input scanner includes upper and lower scanning elements 32, 34 having scanning arrays which are the same devices, platen glasses 90, 92, and a baffle member 200 disposed at a side opposite to the upper scanning element 32. The platen glass 90 is located under the upper scanning element 32 facing the baffle member 200, and the platen glass 92 is located above the lower scanning element 34. In Fig. 2, the platen glass 90 is arranged to have a space to a downstream side plate, and the platen glass 92 is arranged to have a space to an upstream side plate.

In claim 1, the second guide means has an oblique portion at a side of the second reading means to incline obliquely toward the first guide means to gradually reduce a distance to the first guide means. In Fullerton, there is no oblique portion at a side of the second reading means to gradually reduce a distance.

In claim 1, the first and fourth guide means form flat and continuous guide surfaces thereon. In Fullerton, the platen glass 90 has a space with respect to a plate above the platen glass 92, and the plate facing the platen glass 90 forms a space with respect to the platen glass 92. Therefore, there is no flat and continuous guide surfaces in Fullerton.

In claim 1, the second path has a gap smaller than that of the first path. The gap at the platen glass 90 and the gap at the platen glass 92 are substantially the same.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Fullerton.

In claim 10, the first reading means is formed of an optical reduction reading means for reading one surface of a document, and the second reading means for reading the other surface of the document is formed of a contact image sensor. In Fullerton, the upper and lower scanning elements 32, 34 are same elements.

In claim 10, the transport path includes a first path having a determined gap and a second path having a gap narrower than the determined gap, and the document passes from the first path to the second path. In Fullerton, when the document passes from the platen glass 90 to the platen glass 92, there is no special portion different in gap. Especially, since the upper and lower scanning elements 32, 34 are made of the same elements, there is no reason to form different gaps. In the invention, since the first and second reading means are formed of different reading means with different depth in focus, the gaps are formed differently.

Claim 10 of the invention are not anticipated by Fullerton.

As explained above, claims of the application are patentable over Fullerton.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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